

St John's C of E First School



Learning together, aiming high

This policy should be taken as part of St. John's C. of E. VA First School's overall strategy and is implemented within the context of our vision of Government aims and our values as a Church of England School.

English Policy

National Curriculum for English

English has a pre-eminent place in education and in society. A high-quality education in English teaches pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them. Through reading in particular, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Literature, especially, plays a key role in such development. Reading also enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know. All the skills of language are essential to participating fully as a member of society; pupils, therefore, who do not learn to speak, read and write fluently and confidently are effectively disenfranchised.

Aims

The 2014 National Curriculum for English aims to ensure that all children:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
- are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate

The Approach to the Teaching of English at St John's CEVA First School

St John's CEVA First School has adopted the National Curriculum programmes of study for English as a basis for our English curriculum. Every class in key stages 1 and 2 have a daily hour of English. Discrete phonics and spelling is taught across a week. Additional time is also given to handwriting, individual reading, and listening to, and reading, stories and poems.

The reception class follows the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

When planning and teaching the English curriculum the following elements are considered:

- Differentiation to meet the needs of all pupils including careful planning of work to include a range of teaching strategies with a balance between audio, visual, and kinaesthetic techniques
- Computing and cross-curricular links are made where appropriate
- The careful marking of work in accordance with the marking policy
- *Using success criteria with the children to ensure progress is made*

Spoken language

The National Curriculum for English reflects the importance of spoken language in pupils' development across the whole curriculum – cognitively, socially and linguistically. Teachers therefore ensure the continual development of pupils' confidence and competence in spoken language and listening skills.

Phonics

We use a Phonics teaching programme called *Read Write Inc.* to teach our children to blend sounds for reading and segmenting sounds for spelling and writing.

Reading

The National Curriculum programmes of study for reading at key stages 1 and 2 consist of two dimensions:

- word reading
- comprehension (both listening and reading).

The teaching at St John's CEVA First School focuses on developing pupils' competence in both dimensions; different kinds of teaching are needed for each.

Writing

The programmes of study for writing at key stages 1 and 2 are constructed similarly to those for reading:

- transcription (spelling and handwriting)
- composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech and writing).

The teaching at St John's CEVA First School develops pupils' competence in these two dimensions. In addition, pupils are taught how to plan, revise and evaluate their writing. These aspects of writing are incorporated into the National Curriculum programmes of study for composition.

Spelling, vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and glossary

The two statutory appendices in the National Curriculum – on spelling and on vocabulary, grammar and punctuation – which an overview of the specific features that should be included in teaching the programmes of study inform our teaching at St John's CEVA First School.

Equal Opportunities

All children have an entitlement to participate fully in English, regardless of gender, race, age or ability, in accordance with the school's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Children for whom English is an additional language will receive additional support as appropriate.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the English Subject Leader.

23/9/16